

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the United States national phase application of International Application No. PCT/CA00/00953, filed August 21, 2000. International Application No. PCT/CA00/00953 claims the priority of both U. S. Provisional Application No. 60/149,958 filed August 20, 1999 and U. S. Provisional Application No. 60/182,412 filed February 14, 2000.

This application is also a continuation-in-part of U. S. Application Serial No. ~~09/331,344~~, filed August 21, 1999 (completion of 371 requirements), which is the United States national phase application of International Application No. PCT/CA97/00966, filed December 12, 1997, which ~~claims the priority of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/767,868~~, filed December 17, 1996, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,821,220. U. S. Application No. 08/767,868 is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/488,253, filed June 7, 1995, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,641,483.

This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/862,971, filed May 22, 2001, which is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/245,785, filed February 5, 1999, which is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/879,159, filed June 19, 1997, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,877,149. U. S. Application Serial No. 08/879,159 is a continuation-in-part of U. S. Application Serial No. 08/488,253, filed June 7, 1995, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,641,483. --